

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000 X

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 1539

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, MASS, SA, YE, IZ

SUBJECT: YAR REQUEST FOR URGENT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE:
PENINSULA DEFENSE DISCUSSED WITH PRINCE FAHD

REF: A. STATE 66153; B. STATE 66350

SUMMARY: PRINCE FAHD WELL PLEASED WITH US PROPOSALS
FOR ASSISTING YEMEN MILITARILY AS DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR.
FAHD REVIEWED CHARACTER OF THREAT FROM PDRY AND IRAQ, THOUGHT
CLASH BETWEEN SAG AND PDRY INEVITABLE. AMB URGED REGIONAL
ACTION FOR STRENGTHENING PENINSULA SECURITY WITH US REMAINING
BEHIND SCENES GIVING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. IT IMPORTANT
THAT AGGRESSOR ROLE, IF THERE IS TO BE ONE, SHOULD BE LEFT TO
PDRY TO AVOID GIVING IRAQ ANY EXCUSE TO INTERVENE. FAHD'S
REMARKS AND OTHER AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATE SAUDI POLICY AT
MOMENT IS TO PREPARE MAKE GOOD SHOWING IN SOUTH IF COMPLEELED
TO, WHILE CONTINUING POLICY OF LYING LOW ALONG IRAQI BORDER. END
SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING MY MEETING EARLIER IN DAY WITH PRINCE
SULTAN, CALLED ON PRINCE FHAD APRIL 14 AND DESCRIBED TO
HIM IN SUMMARY FASHION COURSES OF ACTION WE PROPOSED TO
HELP STRENGTHEN YAR MILITARILY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A.

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SAID I HAD BEEN THROUGH THESE PROPOSALS IN CONSIDERABLE
DETAIL WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND FOUND HIM ENTHUSIASTIC.
WE MOST ANXIOUS THERE SHOULD BE PROMPT ACTION TO DELIVER
SOME ITEMS AT ONCE TO YEMENIS. TOLD FAHD ALSO OF OUR
SUMMARY OF OUTLOOK FOR PDRY AND IRAQ , AND THAT HE MIGHT
WISH RECEIVE COPY FROLOCKS IN COLUMNS THAT WERE CENSORED.

5. OPINIAO' S MANAGEMENT WAS NOTIFIED LAST TUESDAY
APRIL 10 THAT NEW CENSORSHIP PROCEDURES WOULD BE
NECESSARY. HENCEFORTH, GOB ANNOUNCED, THE NEWSPAPER' S
MATS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEPOSITED IN RIO' S FEDERAL CENSOR' S
OFFICE ON THURSDAYS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL BY VISITING
CENSORSHIP AGENT FROM BRASILIA. UNDER THE NEW GUIDELINES,
MATS WOULD BE RETURNED ON FRIDAY EVENINGS.

6. OPINIAO' S EDITORS, THOUGH OPPOSED TO THESE NEW
REQUIREMENTS ON GROUNDS THAT PAPER COULD NOT MEET ITS
DEADLINES IN TIME FOR NORMAL DISTRIBUTION ON MONDAYS,
ATTEMPTED TO ACCOMMODATE TO THE PROCEDURES, ACCORDING
TO GASPARIAN.

7. GASPARIAN SPECULATED THAT " MISUNDERSTANDINGS" OVER
THE TERMS OF THE NEW PROCEDURES AND A BREAKDOWN IN
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PAPER' S EDITORS AND THE
FEDERAL CENSORSHIP OFFICE LED TO THE RAID AND ARRESTS.

8. OPINIAO EDITORS STILL ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUR
ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY APRIL 16 ISSUE MIGHT BE RELEASED AND
ALLOWED TO BE CIRCULATED. HOWEVER, PROSPECTS APPEAR DIM FOR
SUCH A POSSIBILITY. THEY DID NOT ATTRIBUTE CONFISCATION TO
ANY SPECIFIC ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE EDITION.

9. GASPARIAN PLANS TO CONTINUE PUBLICATION OF FUTURE
EDITIONS AND HOPES TO OVERCOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH
AUTHORITIES OVER NEW PROCEDURES.
BOONSTRA

CONFIDENTIAL

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